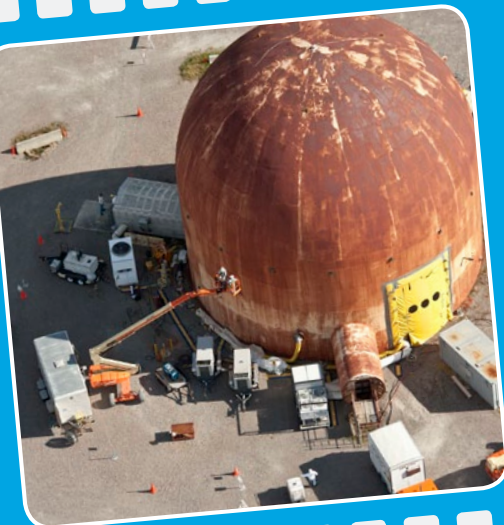




EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Savannah River Site Removes Dome, Opening Reactor for Recovery Act Decommissioning



AIKEN, S.C. – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers achieved a significant milestone in the decommissioning of a Cold War reactor at the Savannah River Site this month after they safely removed its rusty, orange, 75-foot-tall dome. With the help of a 660-ton crane and lifting lugs, the workers pulled the 174,000-pound dome off the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor, capping more than 16 months of preparations. Workers will cut the dome into smaller pieces for disposal. Removal of the dome allows workers to access the 219,000-pound reactor vessel and two steam generators so they can remove and permanently dispose them onsite. Remaining equipment will be moved to the cavity vacated by the vessel, and below-grade portions of the reactor will be sealed with grout. The \$25 million Recovery Act project is slated for completion this summer after workers install a concrete cover over the reactor's footprint. Built in 1959, the reactor was used to test experimental fuel assemblies for commercial heavy-water power reactors until 1964.

